

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- ~~The present invention allows for increasing an autofocus response characteristic.~~ An image-pickup sensor makes exposures ~~ex 11 and ex 12~~ (FIG. 7C) in synchronization with a video-vertical-synchronization signal ~~VP1~~ (FIG. 7A). A camera-signal processing unit reads video signals obtained through the exposures ~~ex 11 and ex 12~~ at timings ~~VR12 and VR 21, respectively~~ (FIG. 7D). An AF-detection unit captures a high-frequency component of a video signal corresponding to an AF-detection-reduction gate frame (~~hereinafter simply referred to as a gate frame~~) at the timing of the gate frame, rectifies and detects the high-frequency component, and generates a focus-evaluation value immediately after the gate-frame timing. An AF module captures a plurality of the focus-evaluation values at the timing of an AF module ~~AF 2~~ (FIG. 7F), generates an autofocus-control signal ~~LD3~~ which brings a focus position near to a focusing position (~~FIG. 7G~~), and moves a focus lens on the basis of the autofocus-control signal ~~LD3~~. ~~The present invention can be used for a video camera.~~